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SCHOOL

AND

FINANCIAL REPOI

OF THE

TOWN OF FRANCESTOWN,

Rendered March, 1866.

PETERBORO:

TRANSCRIPT OFFICE, - - - - JOHN SCOTT & CO., PROPRIETORS

1866.

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3250.50\$

THE
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
TOWN OF FRANCETOWN,
FOR THE
YEAR ENDING MARCH 13, 1866.

MANCHESTER, N. H.
MIRROR STEAM JOB PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT.
1866.

ИМЕНИ

СВЯТОГО АПОСТОЛА ПАВЛА

СВЯТОГО

СВЯТОГО АПОСТОЛА ПАВЛА

СВЯТОГО

СВЯТОГО АПОСТОЛА ПАВЛА

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СВЯТОГО АПОСТОЛА ПАВЛА

СВЯТОГО АПОСТОЛА ПАВЛА

ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT.

The subscribers, accountants for the town of Francestown, for the year ending March 13, 1866, submit the following Report:

STATEMENT.

Whole amount of taxes assessed on Polls and Estate of the inhabitants of said town,.....	\$8,794 88
Appropriated as follows :	
State Tax,.....	\$2,925 00
County "	696 98
Town "	5,172 90
	8,794 88

The Treasurer of the town charges himself with the following sums, to wit :

Balance in Treasury last year,.....	386 90
Cash received of State Treasurer for R. R.	
Tax the year 1865,.....	89 12
Cash rec'd of State for Soldiers' Bounties,..	2,120 00
Cash rec'd of M. W. Eaton, Collector of Taxes for the year 1864,.....	514 97
Cash rec'd of F. H. Duncklee, Collector of Taxes for 1865,.....	3,000 00
Cash rec'd of the Selectmen, for money borrowed,.....	3,490 00
Cash rec'd of Selectmen, State aid,.....	1,628 00
" " Literary fund,.....	21 10
" " of State, note and interest,....	1,254 35
" " Railroad tax,.....	71 00
" " of Joseph Kingsbury, highway tax not worked out, 1864,.....	2 00
	12,578 44
Cash rec'd of Selectmen for tax on deposit in savings banks,.....	63 65

	\$12,642 09

The Treasurer credits himself with the following disbursements ordered by the Selectmen, to wit:

FOR SUPPORT OF SCHOOLS.

District No. 1,.....	57	94
" " 2,.....	71	54
" " 3,.....	251	65
" " 4,.....	87	71
" " 5,.....	145	38
" " 6,.....	72	84
" " 7,.....	68	72
" " 8,.....	45	90
" " 9,.....	22	83
" " 10,.....	36	85
" " 11,.....	45	87
" " 12,.....	22	16
	929	39
Paid F. G. Clark as S. S. Committee,....	50	00
	979	39

EXTRA REPAIRS ON HIGHWAYS.

Paid G. S. Sleeper, for lumber and work,..	5	00
" Horace Silver for bridge plank,.....	8	83
" N. Wyman, labor repairing bridge,..	2	10
" Nathaniel Whitfield, " highway,..	6	00
" Albert Whitfield, Bridge plank,.....	40	45
" James Whitfield, repairing highway,..	3	00
" Leonard Spalding, bridge plank,.....	8	00
" Wm. Sawyer, plank and labor,.....	3	40
" E. T. Blanchard, repairing bridge,...	12	00
" Wm. Tarren, for bridge plank,.....	12	70
" Aaron Fisher, repairing highway,....	1	20
" S. L. Felch, for bridge planks,.....	4	81
" Thos. Ordway, bridge plank and labor,	19	50
" P. Q. Clark, lumber and labor on bridge,	20	23
" Geo. B. Woodward, plank and labor,..	32	59
" Wesley Felch, bridge plank and labor,	9	48
" Luther Hardy, lumber and labor on bridge,	37	00
	226	29

FOR BREAKING ROADS.

Paid Thomas Averill,.....	90
“ K. W. Emerson,.....	1 85
“ Richard Stanley,.....	75
“ Moses W. Emerson,.....	1 35
“ Joseph Rollins,.....	1 50
“ E. G. Kemp,.....	2 25
“ David Manehan,.....	2 00
“ E. T. Blanchard,.....	2 55
“ G. H. Richardson,.....	1 05
“ H. J. Collins,.....	3 60
“ P. C. Kidder,.....	17 70
“ S. L. Felch,.....	80
“ John Weston,.....	2 10
“ Eaton Sleeper,.....	2 40
“ Charles B. Bailey,.....	7 83
“ Thomas Ordway,.....	1 05
“ Parker Bartlett,.....	1 45
“ S. B. Collins,.....	85
“ E. K. Batchelder,.....	90
“ P. C. Butterfield,.....	95
“ David Butterfield,.....	2 17
“ E. P. Bryant,.....	40
	—
	56 40

SUPPORT OF PAUPERS OFF THE FARM.

For Catharine Huntington,.....	52 00
“ Lydia Pond,.....	21 00
“ Mrs. Hannah Fuller,.....	47 00
“ Mrs. Pond,.....	8 00
“ William A. George,.....	13 28
“ Dockum children and C. H. Foot,....	25 00
“ Joseph Huntington, board at N. H. Asylum,.....	159 56
	—
	325 84

MISCELLANEOUS.

Paid Moses W. Eaton, note and interest,..	110 87
“ Henry D. Epps, “ “ ..	162 72
“ C. V. Dearborn, “ “ ..	400 00
“ C. V. Dearborn, bal. note and interest,	218 75
“ Thomas F. Foot, note and interest,...	104 50
“ Harriet D. Adams, interest on note,..	12 00
“ G. F. Billings, bal. note and interest,..	107 50

Paid 1st National Bank of Francestown,..	600 00
" on Geo. B. Woodbridge's note,.....	150 00
" K. W. Emerson, note and interest,...	104 30
" Wm. Butterfield, " " " ..	210 60
" H. H. Hardey, " " " ..	174 46
" Joseph F. Duncklee, note and interest,	104 50
" M. W. Eaton, " " " ..	50 00
" Delia M. Sweetser, " " " ..	167 26
" Leonard Spaulding, note and interest,	222 60
" on Geo. B. Woodbridge's note,.....	200 00
" bal. due on Rob't Woodbury's note,..	60 83
" Nancy C. Dunklee, interest on note,..	21 00
" T. E. Fisher, note and interest,.....	181 22
" Mary A. Robbins, note and interest,..	82 83
" George Ames, interest on note.....	10 20
" J. W. Sweetser, note and interest,...	111 51
" F. G. Clark, int. on Woodbury fund,.	60 00
" Francestown Academy, interest,.....	42 00
" Geo. D. Farnum, note and interest,..	152 70
" Pamelia C. Weston, " " " ..	15 00
" John P. Farmer's note,.....	320 00
" Hiram Patch, note,.....	1,700 00
" T. E. Bixby, note and interest,.....	542 67
" 1st National Bank of Francestown, note,	89 94
" Levi Hopkins, interest on note,.....	8 40
" Daniel P. Bixby, note,	100 00
" D. W. Gould, note,.....	608 00
" James Fulton, note and interest,.....	121 22
" Mrs. Asa Dodge, interest,.....	41 07
" Francestown Academy, note and int.,.	706 00
" Fred. Shearer's note,.....	324 00
" Emily F. Cressey, note and interest,..	118 90
" B. S. Abbott, interest on note,.....	14 16
" B. F. Whitter's note,.....	210 00
" David McCaine, interest on note.....	19 80
" John P. Farmer's note,.....	325 95
" S. D. Downes' note,.....	173 25
" M. D. Hopkins, bounty money,.....	268 00
" Thos. E. Fisher, sheep killed by dogs,	12 00
" Dexter D. Smith, bounty money,....	150 00
" Luke W. Preston, for town records,..	9 20
" Allen Nutting, services on town farm,	250 00
" T. H. Eaton, use of room making taxes,	2 50
" M. W. Eaton, for tax bills,.....	2 50

Paid S. D. Downes, cash to pay for horse,.	100 00
" Hiram Patch, State aid,.....	218 50
" Albert Whitfield, sheep killed by dogs,	3 00
" David Manehan, use of horse,.....	6 00
" H. P. Downes, labor on engine house,	6 50
" E. W. Colburn, work on meeting "	5 00
" N. R. Marden, for engine men,.....	25 00
" James Trask, over assessment,.....	3 30
" G. A. Duncklee, ins. on farm buildings,	7 92
" G. N. White, ringing bell and digging graves,.....	68 50
" G. D. Epps, over assessment,.....	3 30
" S. B. Collins, sheep killed by dogs,...	9 00
" B. F. Dean, " " " " ...	5 00

	10,415 93

TOWN OFFICERS.

Paid Dan'l F. Patch, services as town clerk,	15 00
" P. H. Bixby, " " " treas.,	16 00
" Hiram Patch, " " selectman,	72 50
" Hiram Patch, " " overseer of the poor,.....	20 00
" G. A. Dunklee, services as selectman,	55 00
" G. A. Dunklee, " " overseer of the poor,.....	10 00
" Luke W. Preston, services as selectman,	40 00
" Luke W. Preston, " " overseer of the poor,.....	8 00
" David Atwood, services as accountant,	2 00
" T. B. Bradford, " " " " ...	2 00
" F. H. Dunklee, collector of taxes, 1865,	78 75

	319 25

	\$12,323 10

Whole amount of receipts,.....	12,642 09
Whole amount of disbursements,.....	12,323 10

Balance in Treasury,.....	\$318 99
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STATEMENT.

Debts due sundry persons on notes which they hold against the town, with interest to March 10, 1866, \$24,661 81

Amount brought over,.....	\$24,661 81
Balance in the Treasury,.....	\$318 99
" in collectors' hands,.....	2,172 90
" due the town from the U. States,..	2,800 00
" due from the State,.....	1,200 00
" for State aid to families of soldiers,	251 00
	—————
	6,742 89

Leaving the town in debt, \$17,918 92

The foregoing accounts are correctly cast and duly vouched.

DAVID ATWOOD, } Accountants.
T. B. BRADFORD, }

REPORT OF THE SELECTMEN, AGENTS OF TOWN FARM.

The subscribers, agents for Town Farm, report as follows, viz :

Farm in Account, Dr.

To cost of farm,.....	\$2,664 38
Amount of stock as appraised last year,..	711 00
" Hay and fodder,.....	300 00
" Farming tools,.....	147 50
" Provisions and produce,.....	557 40
" Miscellaneous articles,.....	54 00
" Household furniture,.....	147 49
There will be due Daniel Grey, April 1st, 1866, for his services,.....	350 00
	—————
	\$4,931 67

Appraisal of Property, Feb. 17, 1866, Cr.

By Farm,.....	\$2,664 38
LIVE STOCK.	
2 oxen, \$270, 7 cows, \$330,.....	600 00
1 horse, \$100, 3 swine, \$50,.....	150 00
11 fowls,.....	8 25
	—————
	\$758 25

HAY AND FODDER.

11 tons of English hay,.....	180 00
Lot of fodder,.....	12 00
Lot of clover seed,.....	2 00
	—
	\$194 00

FARMING TOOLS.

1 ox cart, \$20, 1 wagon and harness, \$16,..	36 00
4 plows and cultivator,.....	20 00
1 harrow, \$5, 1 drag, \$2,.....	7 00
3 prs. sled runners, \$2.25, 6 axes, \$2,....	4 25
1 sleigh and wheelbarrow,.....	8 00
3 chains \$4, 1 grindstone \$2,.....	6 00
4 hoes \$1.50, 2 shovels \$1.50,.....	3 00
1 whiffletree and chain,.....	1 25
1 shaving horse and flail,.....	75
2 wood saws \$1.50, scythes and snaths, \$2,	3 50
2 iron bars, \$2, beetle and wedges, \$1,....	3 00
1 sickle and corn cutter,.....	50
Lot carpenter's tools,	5 00
4 hay and manure forks, \$2, lot yokes, \$3,	5 00
2 hand and 7 small rakes,	2 50
1 horse rake, \$2, 2 ox sleds, \$4,.....	6 00

111 75

PROVISIONS AND PRODUCE.

5 bush. wheat, \$12.50, 5 bush. barley, \$4.50	17 00
2 bush. corn, \$2.50, 4 bush. oats, \$2.40,...	4 90
69 lbs. fresh beef,	10 35
20 lbs. sausages, \$4, 22 lbs. butter, \$7.26,	11 26
51 lbs. cheese, \$7.15, 30 lbs. candles, \$6,..	13 15
Lot garden sauce, \$6, lot pickles, \$0.50,...	6 50
375 lbs. salt pork,.....	75 00
186 lbs. ham, \$33.48, 1 bbl. salt beef, \$25,	58 48
60 bushels potatoes,	36 00
50 lbs. lard, \$10, 3 bushels meal, \$3.75,..	13 75
3 bushels snap and sweet corn,	3 75
3 bush. peas, \$6, 6½ bush. beans, \$16.50,..	22 50
½ barrel flour, \$4, groceries, \$2,.....	6 00

— 278 64

MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES.

15 gals. soap, \$3, 1 gun, \$0.50.....	3 50
10 butter tubs, \$3, lot soap grease, \$1.25,....	4 25
6 meal bags, \$3, 10 lbs. wool rolls, \$8,.....	11 00

Lot of logs at mill,.....	15 00
Lot of shingles,.....	2 00
Bed and bedding of James McCoy,	12 00
10 pairs feeting,.....	7 50
Bed and bedding of Aaron Woodward,....	5 00
	—
Household furniture,.....	60 25
	—
	147 50
	—
	\$4,214 27

HIRAM PATCH,
GEO. A. DUNCKLEE, } Agents
LUKE W. PRESTON, } for
Town Farm.

S C H E D U L E

Of Stock and Articles sold from the Farm, with the amount received for the same, during the year ending Feb. 23, 1866.

AMOUNT OF LIVE STOCK SOLD.

1 pair of oxen,	\$220 00
1 horse,	35 00
17 sheep,	59 50
	—
	314 50

AMOUNT OF LIVE STOCK BOUGHT.

1 pair of oxen,	\$238 00
1 horse,	100 00
2 cows,.....	100 00
3 pigs,	13 00
	—
	451 00

AMOUNT RECEIVED FOR ARTICLES SOLD FROM FARM.

6 calves,.....	46 89
100 lbs. hide,.....	7 67
39 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. wool,.....	23 85
248 lbs. butter,.....	109 45
37 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. poultry,.....	7 50
3 pelts,.....	3 00
15 doz. eggs,.....	3 50
7 $\frac{1}{2}$ bushels potatoes,.....	2 90
Vegetables,.....	2 68
285 lbs. pork,.....	47 02
Lot of hemlock bark,.....	3 25

27 lbs. cheese,.....	3 24
For pasturing sheep,.....	2 50
Received of town of Bennington, for board-	
ing Thomas Little,.....	42 00
9 pairs feeting,.....	5 40
	—
	309 85

LIST OF ARTICLES PURCHASED FOR SUPPORT OF PAUPERS ON THE
FARM.

Paid for beans,.....	4 35
" for vinegar,.....	1 60
" for hoe and shovel,.....	2 05
" for rennet,.....	57
" for carding wool,.....	1 77
" for new pump for barn,.....	8 00
" for rye,.....	1 50
" for corn,.....	11 85
" for mason work,.....	3 40
" for beef,.....	1 30
" for insurance of buildings,.....	7 92
" for shoe bill,.....	4 10
" Nutting, for keeping colt,	7 80
" for grinding and hooping bbl,.....	1 10
" for threshing grain,.....	1 62
" for meal,.....	3 65
" for store bill,.....	126 07
" for five bbls. flour,.....	61 44
" for grass seed,.....	14 27
" for cotton cloth,.....	20 00
" for blacksmith's bill,.....	19 30
" for doctor's bill,.....	2 75
	—
	306 32

The average number of paupers who have been supported on the farm is seven.

According to the appraised value last year and the appraised value this year, the expenses of supporting the paupers at the poor farm have been \$714.00. The reduction in the value of the property and shrink should not justly be charged to supporting the paupers from one year to another, unless the stock and produce of the farm has a fixed value, and not changed every year.

It will be seen that the sales from the farm have paid all the bills of supporting the paupers at the farm, except the Superintendent's salary, which is \$350.00. The expenses of the paupers off the farm have been \$188.00, making the actual amount of money paid for support of poor \$538.00.

HIRAM PATCH,
GEO. A. DUNCKLEE,
LUKE W. PRESTON, } *Agents of Town Farm,*
} and *Overseers of Poor.*

SCHOOL REPORT.

YOUR COMMITTEE would submit the following Report of the Schools in Francestown for the year now closing:

DISTRICT NO. I.

CHAS. WYMAN, Prudential Committee. Money, \$57.94.

Length of School in weeks,	13
Wages per month, including board,	\$24
Number of Scholars,	17
Average,	12.88
Per cent. attendance,	,76

The only term in this district was taught by *Mrs. Sarah J. Baker*, a teacher of eighty-five months experience,—a guarantee of a good school. The reading of the first class was excellent, and the arithmetic classes were prompt. We presume it was unintentional, but the best scholars had most of the work to do at the examination.

DISTRICT NO. II.

S. P. NEWTON, Prudential Committee. Money, \$71.34

Length of School in weeks,	Summer,	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	Winter,	9
Wages per month, including board,	"	\$15	"	\$34
Number of Scholars,	"	23	"	20
Average,	"	19.36	"	15.6
Per cent. attendance,	"	,84	"	,78

Miss Hattie A. Newton taught the summer term of this school; it was one of the largest in town and required an experienced teacher. Miss Newton labored earnestly and faithfully to perform all her duties but the scholars did not present that appearance of promptness and order necessary in a good school.

In the winter the school was again under the charge of an inexperienced teacher, Mr. E. A. Wood, who was a young man of good abilities and pleasing address, and with a more thorough acquaintance with the common school system of education would have succeeded well. The classes in reading seemed to have made the best progress.

DISTRICT NO. III.

GEO. N. WHITE, Prudential Committee.	Money, \$251.65.		
Length of School in weeks, Summer	8	Fall	8 Winter 12
Wages per mo. including board,	" \$21	" \$21	" \$24
No. of Scholars,	" 20	" 30	" 34
Average,	" 17	" 22	" 26.94
Per cent. attendance,	" ,85	" ,79	" ,73

This school is large and difficult to govern. *Miss Jennie M. Marden*, who has been successful in smaller schools, kept the summer and fall terms, but found that more executive ability was required than she had been obliged to use in other schools. The classes in the Primer and Second Reader made good progress, and the class in Mental Arithmetic did well. In the winter, twenty-five of the advanced scholars were sent to the Academy, and the remainder were under the instruction of *Miss Sarah E. Emerson*. The scholars were prompt and accurate in recitation, and gave evidence that "not how much, but how well," had been their motto. Nine not absent a day. We think that the class in the Fourth Reader could have made more improvement in the Third.

DISTRICT NO. IV.

F. H. DUNCKLEE, Prudential Committee.	Money, \$87.71.		
Length of School in weeks,	Summer, 7½	Winter, 10	
Wages per month, including board,	" \$14	" \$22	
Number of Scholars,	" 25	" 27	
Average,	" 23	" 18	
Per cent. attendance,	" ,92	" ,67	

Miss Carrie L. Patch, a teacher of many months' experience, commenced the summer term with the prospect of having a

good school, but sickness obliged her to close abruptly at the end of a little more than seven weeks.

An excellent school was kept in the winter by *Miss Carrie L. Cochran*. All the reading and spelling classes made good progress, but the advanced classes were not prompt enough in defining. The present to the teacher of a beautiful Bible at the close of the term was good evidence of her faithfulness and success.

DISTRICT NO. V.

JOHN WEST, Prudential Committee. Money, \$145.38

Length of School in weeks,	Summer	10	Winter	10
Wages per month, including board,	"	\$15	"	\$36
No. Scholars,	"	14	"	15
Average,	"	12.33	"	8.8
Per cent. attendance,	"	,88	"	,59

The summer school was taught for the second time by *Miss Clara A. Saucyer*, who labored with her usual patience and fidelity. The classes in mental arithmetic appeared very well. A lack of school books was a disadvantage to the school.

Mr. Sidney H. Hardy commenced the winter term with the prospect of a pleasant and profitable school, but failing to establish at first that order so necessary to success, a resort to punishment caused most of the scholars to leave before the end of the term. Public opinion out of the district sustained the teacher, and the attempts that were made to break up the school by taking out the windows and stove were disgraceful in the extreme. The school was not visited at all by parents. In the "good time coming" we shall see a new school house and better schools in district No. 5.

DISTRICT NO. VI.

N. WOOD, Prudential Committee. Money, \$72.84.

Length of School in weeks,	Summer	7	Winter	8
Wages per month, including board,	"	\$20	"	\$20
No. Scholars,	"	15	"	17
Average,	"	11.2	"	15.64
Per cent. attendance,	"	,75	"	,92

The teacher of the summer term, *Miss Fannie A. Gale*, passed a good examination, but did not manifest a true appreciation of a teacher's duties, so essential to success. Some of the classes seemed to have made commendable progress.

The second term was kept by *Miss Sarah E. Emerson*, who

possessed experience, tact in teaching, and love for the work. Five of the pupils were not absent a single day. All the classes gave evidence of a thorough drill in the elements of reading and arithmetic.

DISTRICT NO. VII.

S. Wood, Prudential Committee. Money, \$68.72.

Length of School in weeks,	Summer	8	Winter	8
Wages per month, including board,	"	\$14	"	\$22
No. Scholars,	"	11	"	15
Average,	"	9.73	"	11.33
Per cent. attendance,	"	,88	"	,76

The summer term of this school was taught by *Miss Emmie M. Emerson*, a young teacher of much promise. Three of the first class in spelling did not miss a word, five were not absent at all. The class in Grammar at examination did finely, and nearly all the classes appeared well.

The good work begun was continued in the winter by *Miss Alice M. Kingsbury*, whose schools have always ranked high. The scholars were prompt in recitation and appeared to have a practical knowledge of the work completed. Nine of the pupils were not absent during the term.

DISTRICT NO. VIII.

G. W. Ross, Prudential Committee. Money, \$45.90.

Length of School in weeks,	Summer	8	Winter	9
Wages per month, including board,	"	\$13	"	\$20
No. Scholars,	"	7	"	7
Average,	"	5.89	"	6.33
Per cent. attendance,	"	,84	"	,90

Both terms were in charge of *Miss Sarah A. Hardy*. The Committee was unable to be present at the close of the first term, but has heard the school well spoken of by the parents.

The examination in the winter showed good progress in reading and arithmetic. The scholars found it an excellent discipline to repeat the questions in mental arithmetic.

DISTRICT NO. IX.

GEO. P. HOLT, Prudential Committee. Money, \$22.83.

Length of School in weeks,	7
Wages per month, including board,	\$12.00
No. Scholars,	13
Average,	9.75
Per cent. attendance,	,75

Only one term of school in No. 9, and of the 13 different scholars only three belonged to the district. The success of the school was somewhat lessened by the coming and going of other scholars, but the influence of *Miss Mary C. Simonds'* faithful instruction will continue to be felt long after the old school house has ceased to exist.

DISTRICT NO. X.

Moses B. Fisher, Prudential Committee. Money, \$36.85.

No. 10 is a union district with Lyndeboro'. There was but one term, kept by *Miss Juliette Haggett*. The register has not been returned, so that we cannot give the statistics.

There were twelve scholars present at the examination, and we think that they did well. The poorest exercise was in spelling, while the class in mental arithmetic did admirably. Classes in geography also did very well. It is a very unusual thing in other districts to find so many visitors present at the close of school.

DISTRICT NO. XI.

S. J. Follansbee, Prudential Committee. Money, \$45.87.

Length of School in weeks,		10 $\frac{2}{3}$
Wages per month, including board,		\$20
No. Scholars,		8
Average,		6,68
Per cent. attendance,		,84

The scholars of this school were favored with the instruction of *Miss Mary F. Gilchrist*, a thorough, efficient teacher, and we hope this will not be her only school in Francestown. The class in Colburn's was good, and all the classes averaged well. There were fifty-one cases of tardiness, nineteen of which were by one scholar.

DISTRICT NO. XII.

A. J. Dodge, Prudential Committee. Money, \$22,16

Length of School in weeks,	Summer	10	Winter	12
Wages per month, including board,	"	\$14	"	\$20
No. Scholars,	"	4	"	6
Average,	"	3,5	"	5
Per cent. attendance,	"	,88	"	,84

This school is too small for profit, only three scholars from Francestown and one from New Boston in summer. *Miss Ka-*

tie E. Kidder had charge of the summer term and we think she did her work well, although absence from town did not give us the opportunity to examine the school at its close.

Miss Josie A. Huntington taught the winter school and faithfully performed her duties, but the scholars should remember that to obtain a practical education, they need to study principles as well as rules and definitions.

On the whole we think that progress has been made during the year. The summer schools did not rank as high as they should have done, but teachers and pupils were not wholly to blame. We trust that parents will sometime realize the necessity of expressing more interest in the education of their children, and that agents will sometime exercise their judgment in the selection of teachers. We are all aware that we cannot raise a beautiful and substantial superstructure without a foundation deep and wide, but how little we think of this in the education of children. It is an opinion almost universal that anybody can keep a summer school, and forgetting that the way the twig is bent the tree inclines we intrust young and tender minds to the care of teachers but little disciplined in thought and study; all this might in a great measure be obviated if agents would make the same efforts to obtain good teachers that they do to secure faithful farm hands.

The winter schools, with one exception, were successful. An interesting exercise at the examinations in Nos. 4 and 7 was the repeating, by the scholars, of the ten commandments; we hope this will become the practice in all the schools; certainly childhood is the most appropriate time to learn the laws of God.—We think that a teacher should require all the scholars to attend to the devotional exercises at the opening of school, but find one, now and then, that does not call a scholar tardy if he is present when the school are through reading the testament.—This ought not to be so. It not only cultivates a habit of being late, but it is an open disregard to the only recognition we are required to make of our dependence on God.

The usual report about old school houses will this year be omitted as they speak for themselves.

We would again call attention to the fact that the schools are too small to be profitable. The whole number of scholars in four districts attending school the winter term was only twenty-three, yet four teachers were employed where one could have done the work. We trust an effort will be made to re-divide the town so as to form a less number of districts. Eighty-four prize books have been distributed on the same plan as last year.

Some of the scholars were not well supplied with school books, while there is not a book of reference in a single district, and but few outline maps; if the town would vote to supply each school house with a copy of Webster's Unabridged Dictionary and a few outline maps it would confer a lasting benefit on the rising generation.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

FRANK G. CLARK,

Superintending School Committee.

Francestown, Feb. 22, 1866.



